CAPTAIN MARVEL

MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
3 of 5
DIRECT EDITION

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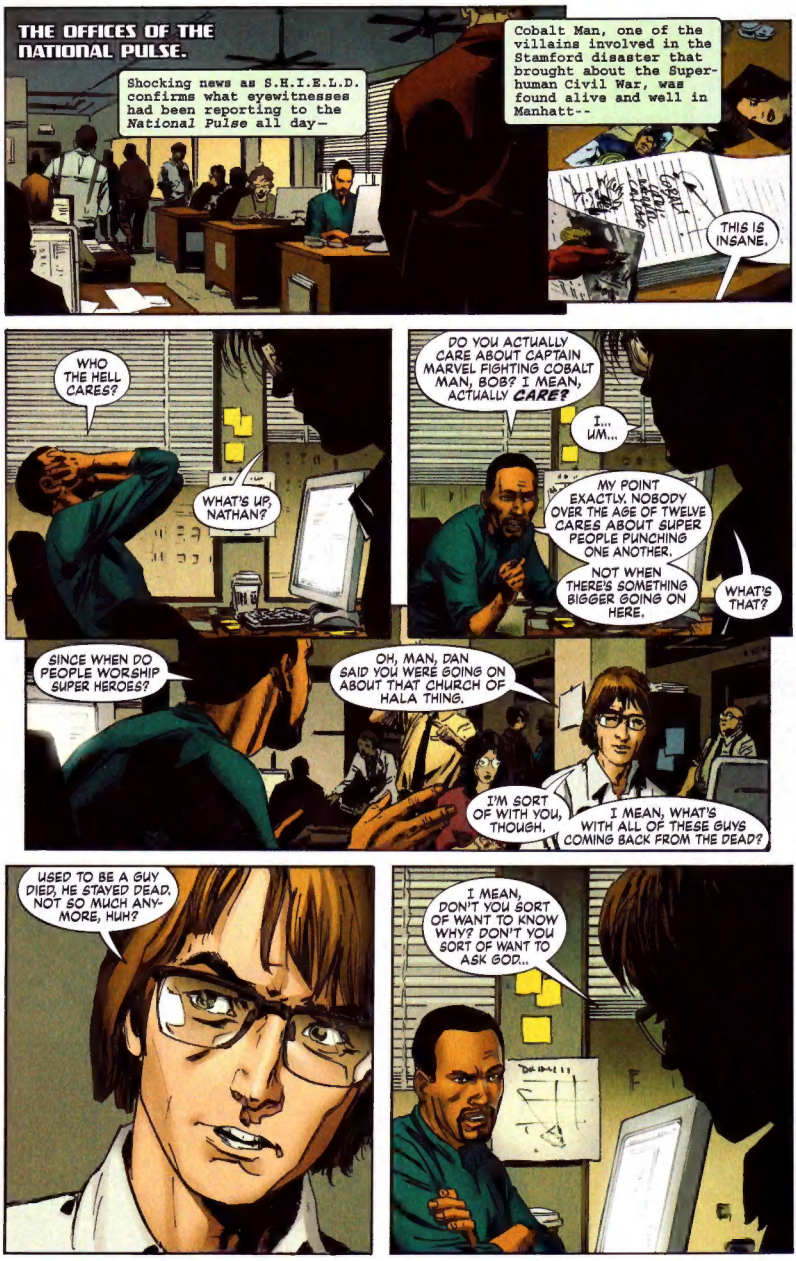
THE OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL PULSE.
Shocking news as S.H.I.E.L.D. confirms what eyewitnesses had been reporting to the *National Pulse* all day—
Cobalt Man, one of the villains involved in the Stamford disaster that brought about the Super-human Civil War, was found alive and well in Manhatt--
THIS IS INSANE.
WHO THE HELL CARES?
WHAT'S UP, NATHAN?
DO YOU ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT CAPTAIN MARVEL FIGHTING COBALT MAN, BOB? I MEAN, ACTUALLY ***CARE?***
I... UM...
MY POINT EXACTLY. NOBODY OVER THE AGE OF TWELVE CARES ABOUT SUPER PEOPLE PUNCHING ONE ANOTHER.
NOT WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING BIGGER GOING ON HERE.
WHAT'S THAT?
SINCE WHEN DO PEOPLE WORSHIP SUPER HEROES?
OH, MAN, DAN SAID YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT THAT CHURCH OF HALA THING.
I'M SORT OF WITH YOU, THOUGH.
I MEAN, WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THESE GUYS COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD?
USED TO BE A GUY DIED, HE STAYED DEAD. NOT SO MUCH ANY-MORE, HUH?
I MEAN, DON'T YOU SORT OF WANT TO KNOW WHY? DON'T YOU SORT OF WANT TO ASK GOD...

3: DEEP BACKGROUND

Mar-Vell of the Kree — an alien soldier treated as a traitor by his own people — became the hero known on Earth as...

CAPTAIN MARVEL

After a long and storied career, Mar-Vell contracted cancer and died in his bed several years ago.

At least that's how history was supposed to play out...

After an accident in the Negative Zone, a portal in time opened, drawing Captain Marvel from the past — before his death — and depositing him in the present.

Fully aware of his impending death, Mar-Vell went to New York to see if Iron Man could help him find his way home.

What Mar-Vell found instead was the attention of the entire planet — and beyond. A cult calling itself "The Church of Hala", led by the mysterious Mother Starr, worships Mar-Vell as a messiah returned from the dead. Ms. Marvel asked Mar-Vell to join forces with the Mighty Avengers. And now the Kree have come looking for Mar-Vell, planning to charge him with crimes committed years ago, during the Kree/Skrull war...

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ATTENTION, KREE SOLDIERS! THIS IS IRON MAN, DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. YOUR ACTS OF AGGRESSION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
YOU MUST STAND DOWN NOW, OR--
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.-- THREE MINUTES AGO.
MAR-VELL!
UNNNFFF
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME BY SETTING A TRAP?!
YOU ARE NOT WARRIORS!

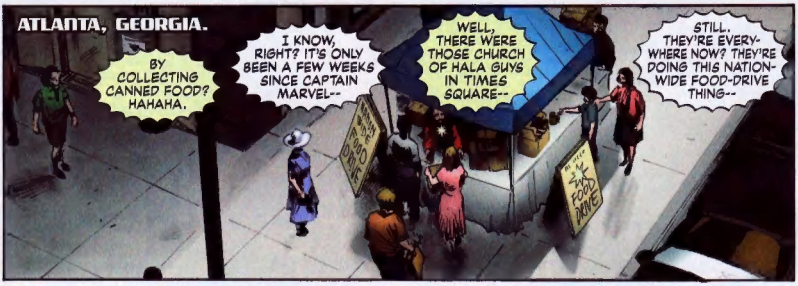
YOU ARE COWARDS!
INITIATE SCAN OF ALIEN ENERGY JUST ABSORBED BY THE ARMOR.
//Scan initiated. //Allen energy identified. //Classification: Skrull Energy Weapon.
CAP!
THESE ARE NOT KREE SOLDIERS!
THEY ARE CLEARL--
KRAZOW!
UNNHHH!
WHY DID THE WEAPON NOT KILL IT?!
THERE WAS ENOUGH ENERGY IN THAT BLAST TO FELL A QWANTZ!
GNNNYAAAH!
IF THE GUN WILL NOT WORK, THEN WE WILL BEAT IT TO DEATH!

HE KNOWS HIS DUTY!
WHAT IN THE--
MORE THAN THEIR WEAPONS WERE SKRULL!
HSSSS...
KRAZOW!
NOW THEN, IRON MAN...
...IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME?

THREE DAYS LATER...
"WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?"
"THAT'S CLASSIFIED."
"AND WHAT DID HE SAY?"
"THAT'S CLASSIFIED TOO."
YOU WANT ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, BUT YOU WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING--
THE WHOLE SITUATION HAS ENTERED AN AREA UNRELATED TO YOUR WORK WITH MAR-VELL, AGENT SANTE.
EXCEPT THAT MAR-VELL IS INVOLVED.
STARK TOWER.
HE'S BEEN EXPOSED TO THE SITUATION. HE'S NOT INVOLVED.
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
UH-HUH.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG IN MAR-VELL'S HEAD, DIRECTOR STARK, AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING ME.
HE IS OBSESSED WITH THE CHARLES DE BRUN PAINTING OF ALEXANDER ENTERING BABYLON.
HE'S TAKEN STEPS TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT HE'S DOING INSIDE HIS APARTMENT--
IN SHORT, WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN WE DID THREE DAYS AGO.
IS THAT A COMMENT ON MY JOB PERFORMANCE?

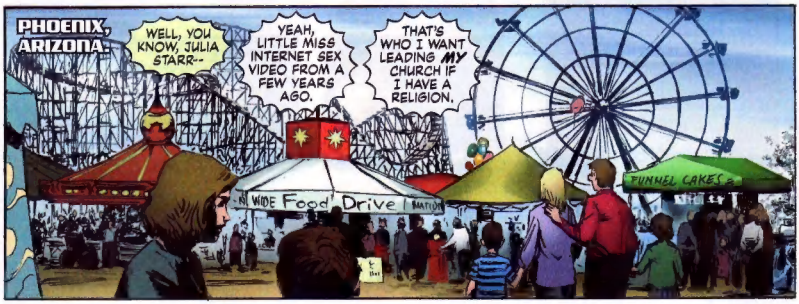
NO. I--THERE'S SOMETHING BIG AND SCARY AND DOWNRIGHT TERRIBLE BREWING AT THE MOMENT.
I APOLOGIZE IF THAT SOUNDS MELO-DRAMATIC.
AND IT DOES.
THERE ARE... LET'S CALL THEM "OUTSIDE FORCES" AT WORK.
AND I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF THEY ARE NOT IN SOME WAY INVOLVED WITH MAR-VELL'S RETURN, HIS AMNESIA--MAYBE EVEN HIS OBSESSION WITH THE PAINTING.
THOSE "OUTSIDE FORCES" ARE THE CLASSIFIED THINGS, YES?
INDEED.
AND YOU'RE THINKING, MAYBE WE'RE LOOKING TOO DIRECTLY AT MAR-VELL INSTEAD OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM.
EXACTLY.
SO WHERE SHOULD WE BE LOOKING?
THERE'S AN ORGANIZATION THAT DIDN'T EXIST BEFORE A FEW WEEKS AGO. AND NOW THEY'VE GOT BRANCHES CROPPING UP ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
THE CHURCH OF HALA. THEY'RE TREATING MAR-VELL LIKE A GOD OR SOMETHING, AREN'T THEY?
KLICK
INDEED. BUT WHY HIM? HEROES AND VILLAINS BOTH HAVE COME BACK TO THE WORLD AFTER PRETTY PUBLIC DEATHS. WHY PAY SO MUCH ATTENTION TO THIS ONE?
SO I'LL GO INVESTIGATE THE KOOKS AND DO WHAT, EXACTLY?
SEE IF THEY HAVE GREEN SKIN AND UGLY CHINS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
CLASSIFIED.
UH-HUH.

BUCKEYE MALL, CLEVELAND, OHIO.
THIS FOOD-DRIVE THING--ROBIN, YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS?
THE CHURCH OF HALA THING?
YEAH. I GUESS THEY'RE TIRED OF BEING LABELED A CULT OR SOMETHING? THEY HAD THIS GUY ON TV LAST NIGHT, IN HIS ROBE AND $#@% SAYING THEY WANT TO BE A "FORCE FOR GOOD."
BUCKEYE MALL
NATION WIDE FOOD DRIVE


ATLANTA, GEORGIA.
BY COLLECTING CANNED FOOD? HAHAHA.
I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW WEEKS SINCE CAPTAIN MARVEL--
WELL, THERE WERE THOSE CHURCH OF HALA GUYS IN TIMES SQUARE--
STILL. THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE NOW? THEY'RE DOING THIS NATION-WIDE FOOD-DRIVE THING--
FOOD DRIVE

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI.
I HEARD SOME CELEBRITIES WERE JOINING THE CHURCH.
WHAT, LIKE TOM--
OH, AND THEY'RE SENDING AID TO IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, NORTH KOREA, AND DARFUR--
NATION WIDE FOOD DRIVE
HI, WE WORSHIP A SUPER HERO. HERE, HAVE A CAN OF YAMS.

HELENA, MONTANA.
YA GOTTA WONDER, DON'T YA, JUST WHAT CAPTAIN MARVEL THINKS ABOUT ALL THIS? I MEAN, HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR AWHILE AND NOW HE'S ALIVE AND PEOPLE ARE TREATING HIM LIKE HE'S GOD OR SOMETHING.
BOYNTON'S FOODS
Food Drive


PHOENIX, ARIZONA.
WELL, YOU KNOW, JULIA STARR--
YEAH, LITTLE MISS INTERNET SEX VIDEO FROM A FEW YEARS AGO.
THAT'S WHO I WANT LEADING MY CHURCH IF I HAVE A RELIGION.
WIDE Food Drive
FUNNEL CAKES

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.
I WAS READING SOMEWHERE THAT SHE BANKROLLED THE CHURCH WITH THE STARR STEEL FORTUNE.
DIDN'T SHE TRY TO SHOOT THAT GUY?
WHAT GUY?
OH, YEAH! YEAH! THAT REPORTER.
YEAH. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
IRON MAN

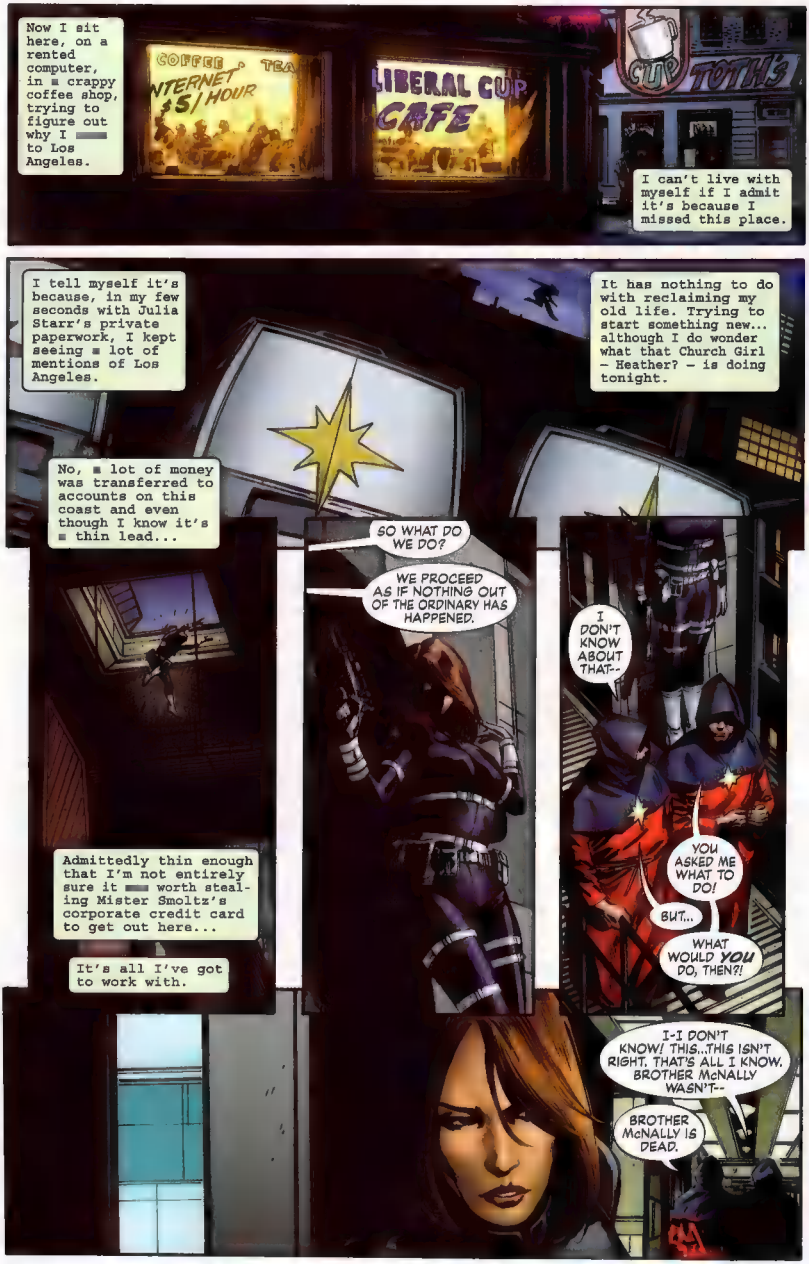
NATHAN. NATHAN JEFFERSON.

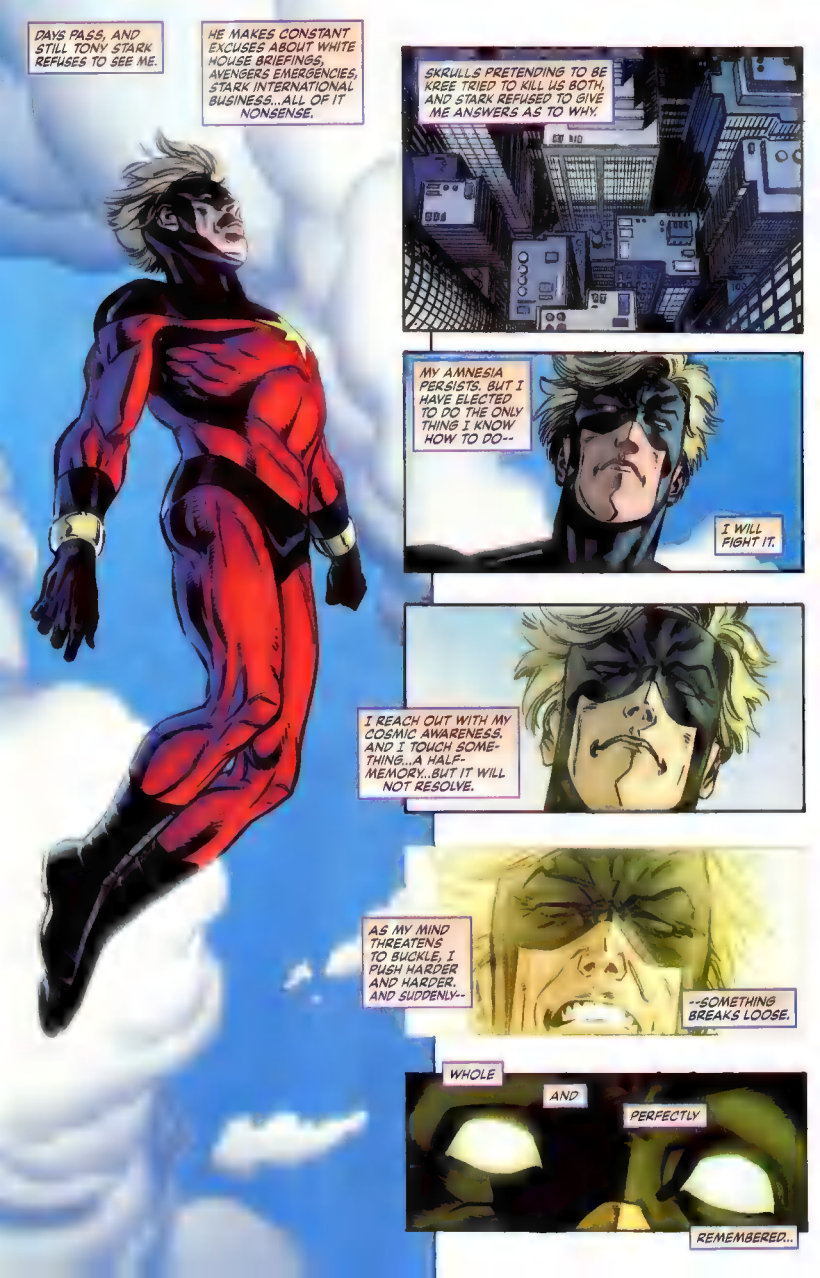
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU TO LOS ANGELES?
I USED TO LIVE HERE, ONCE UPON A TIME. WENT TO NEW YORK FOR A BIT--STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY.
AND YOU CAME BACK HERE FOR THE CHURCH?

Why the hell did I come to Los Angeles?
YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THAT, SURE.
WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?

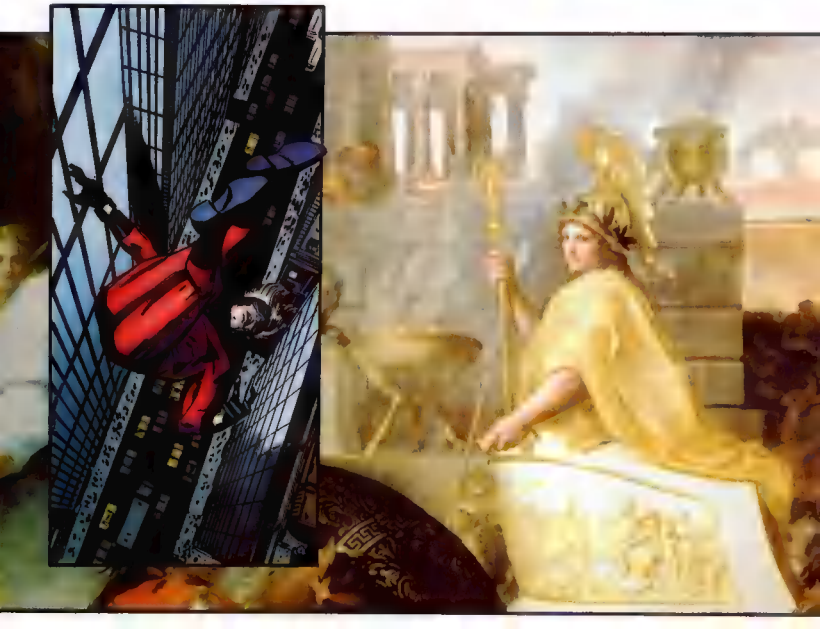
I'M HEATHER. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, NATHAN.
I could have done this in New Jersey or D.C. just as well.

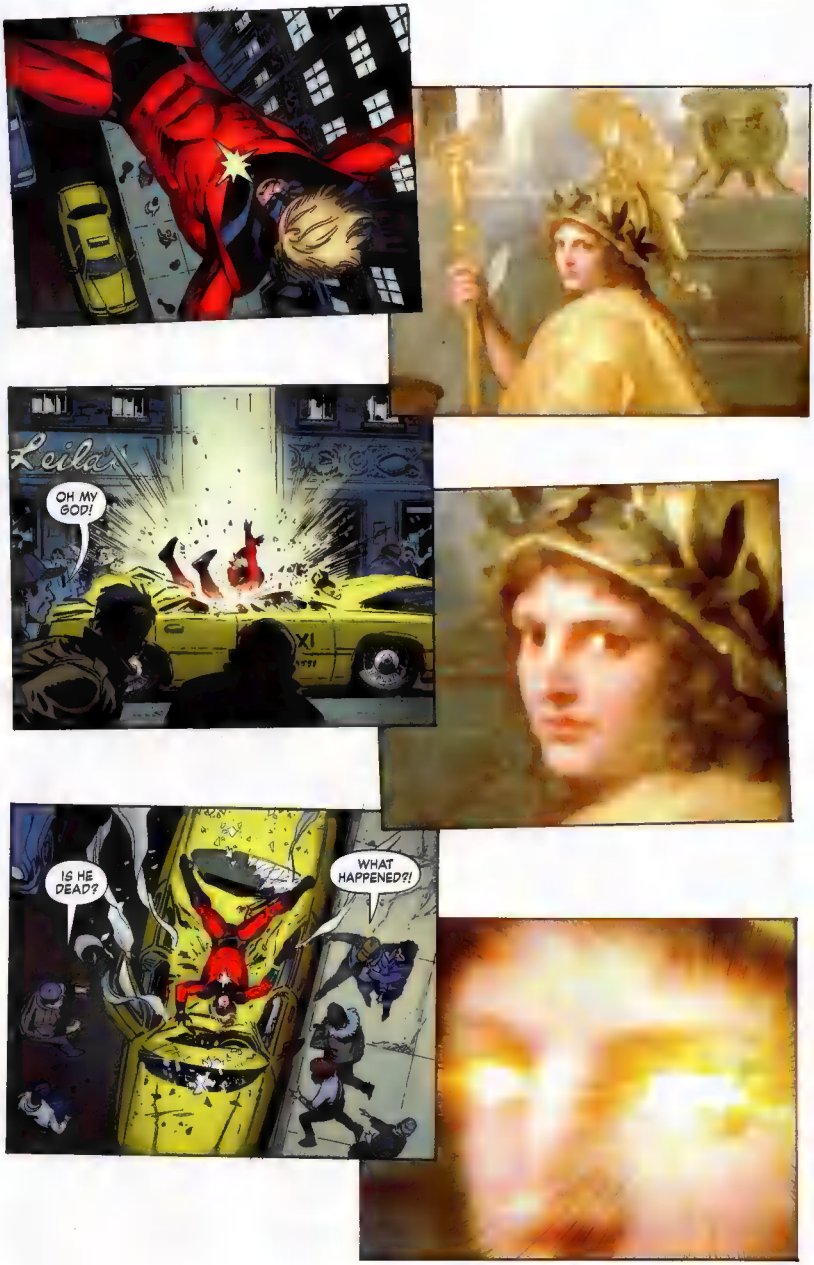
But I [redacted] to Los Angeles.
CALIFORNIA


Now I sit here, on a rented computer, in a crappy coffee shop, trying to figure out why I [redacted] to Los Angeles.
COFFEE TEA
INTERNET $5/HOUR
LIBERAL CUP CAFE
CUP TOTHS
I can't live with myself if I admit it's because I missed this place.
I tell myself it's because, in my few seconds with Julia Starr's private paperwork, I kept seeing a lot of mentions of Los Angeles.
It has nothing to do with reclaiming my old life. Trying to start something new... although I do wonder what that Church Girl – Heather? – is doing tonight.
No, a lot of money was transferred to accounts on this coast and even though I know it's a thin lead...
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
WE PROCEED AS IF NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY HAS HAPPENED.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT--
YOU ASKED ME WHAT TO DO!
BUT...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO, THEN?!
Admittedly thin enough that I'm not entirely sure it was worth stealing Mister Smoltz's corporate credit card to get out here...
It's all I've got to work with.
I-I DON'T KNOW! THIS...THIS ISN'T RIGHT. THAT'S ALL I KNOW. BROTHER McNALLY WASN'T--
BROTHER McNALLY IS DEAD.


DAYS PASS, AND STILL TONY STARK REFUSES TO SEE ME.
HE MAKES CONSTANT EXCUSES ABOUT WHITE HOUSE BRIEFINGS, AVENGERS EMERGENCIES, STARK INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS...ALL OF IT NONSENSE.
SKRULLS PRETENDING TO BE KREE TRIED TO KILL US BOTH, AND STARK REFUSED TO GIVE ME ANSWERS AS TO WHY.
MY AMNESIA PERSISTS. BUT I HAVE ELECTED TO DO THE ONLY THING I KNOW HOW TO DO--
I WILL FIGHT IT.
I REACH OUT WITH MY COSMIC AWARENESS. AND I TOUCH SOMETHING...A HALF-MEMORY..BUT IT WILL NOT RESOLVE.
AS MY MIND THREATENS TO BUCKLE, I PUSH HARDER AND HARDER. AND SUDDENLY--
--SOMETHING BREAKS LOOSE.
WHOLE
AND
PERFECTLY
REMEMBERED..

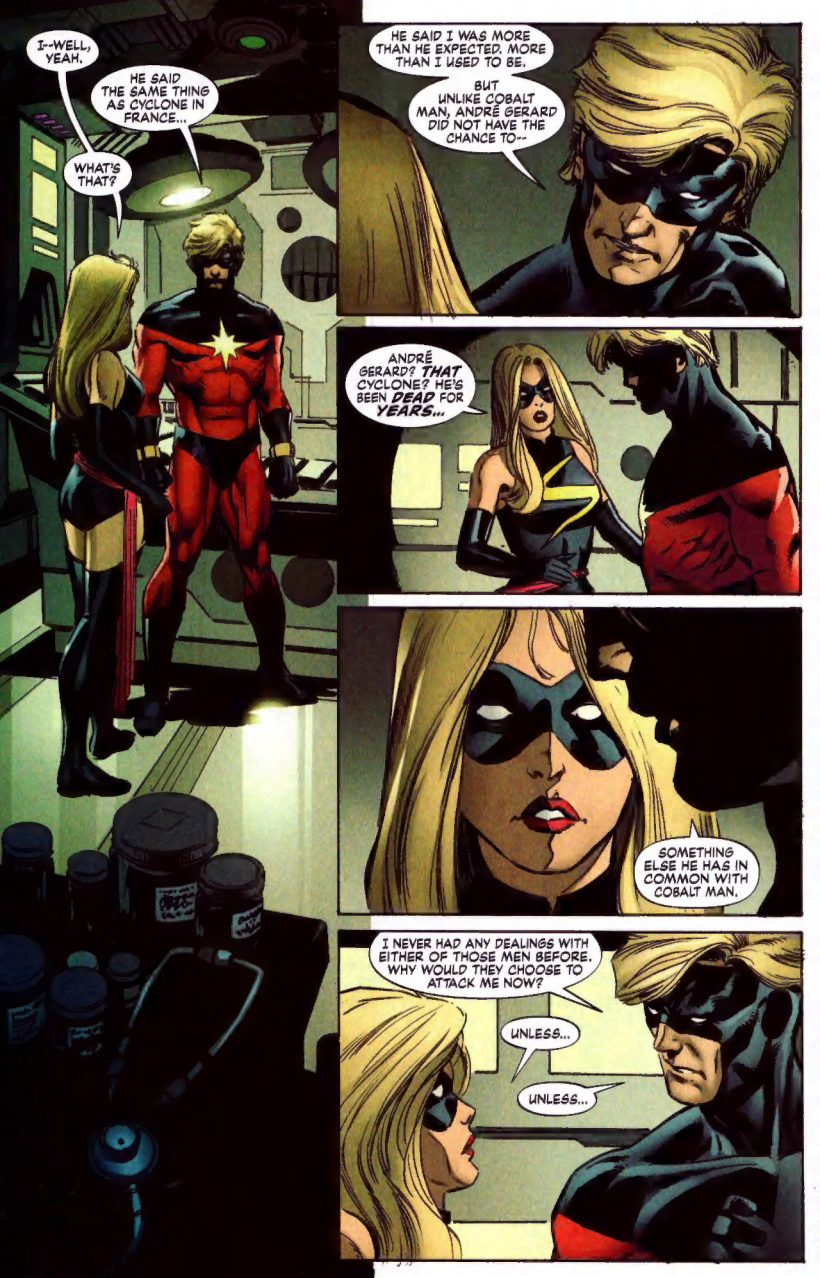
I RECOGNIZE THE ROOM. I WAS HELD PRISONER HERE BY THE SKRULLS DURING THEIR WAR WITH THE KREE.
WH- WHERE AM I?
BUT...
SKRULLS!
AHH, YOU ARE AWAKE.
SOMETHING IS WRONG...THIS ISN'T...IS IT? I--
BREAKING. THE PAIN AND THE STRESS OF FIGHTING--
I'M TRYING TO REMEM--
IT LOOKS ALL TH GUARDS




Leila
OH MY GOD!
IS HE DEAD?
WHAT HAPPENED?!

CAMP HAMMOND — MAIN TRAINING GROUND FOR THE FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE.
"I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO LOOK FOR YOU, CAROL."
YOU'RE LUCKY I WAS EVEN HERE. THINGS HAVE BEEN HECTIC LATELY--
BECAUSE OF THE SKRULLS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TONY DIDN'T TELL YOU?
OR DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW?
I--
WHAT DID YOU SAY AFTER OUR FIRST KISS?
EXCUSE ME?
ANSWER THE QUESTION, OR I KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
ANSWER ME, DAMMIT! WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
MAR-VELL, MAYBE YOU HAD BETTER--
PROVE TO ME YOU ARE NOT A SKRULL AGENT, OR YOU WILL DIE!

I SAID, "MY NAME'S CAROL, BY THE WAY."
YOU WERE WEARING THAT SILLY FIN-HEAD UNIFORM OF YOURS AND I HAD THE BIGGEST DAMN SCHOOLGIRL CRUSH I'VE EVER HAD.
I--
I HAVE EMBARRASSED MYSELF ACCUSING YOU SO.
MY APOLOGIES, CAROL.
MAR-VELL...
THE SKRULLS... WHEN DID YOU-- HOW?
AN AMBUSH. CLEARLY INTENDED TO KILL BOTH TONY AND MYSELF.
WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO JOIN THE AVENGERS, YOU SAID TRUST WAS AN ISSUE FOR YOU. I MISUNDERSTOOD. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME--
MAR-VELL, TO BE HONEST, FOR A WHILE NONE OF US WERE REAL SURE YOU WEREN'T A SKRULL.
ME?
AFTER YOU WERE DEAD FOR SO LONG, TO SUDDENLY JUST POP UP OUT OF NOWHERE, CLAIMING TIME TRAVEL AND AMNESIA--
THE NEGATIVE ZONE ACCIDENT-- I WAS BROUGHT HERE!
I'M JUST SAYING.
PEOPLE COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD HAPPENS IN THIS BUSINESS, BUT--
LIKE COBALT MAN.


I--WELL, YEAH.
HE SAID THE SAME THING AS CYCLONE IN FRANCE...
WHAT'S THAT?
HE SAID I WAS MORE THAN HE EXPECTED. MORE THAN I USED TO BE.
BUT UNLIKE COBALT MAN, ANDRÉ GERARD DID NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO--
ANDRÉ GERARD? THAT CYCLONE? HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS...
SOMETHING ELSE HE HAS IN COMMON WITH COBALT MAN.
I NEVER HAD ANY DEALINGS WITH EITHER OF THOSE MEN BEFORE. WHY WOULD THEY CHOOSE TO ATTACK ME NOW?
UNLESS...
UNLESS...

THE NEGATIVE ZONE PRISON.
YOU ARE NOT COBALT MAN AT ALL.
YOU ARE A SKRULL.
THAT'S FUNNY.
IT WAS NOT SAID IN JEST.
STILL FUNNY.
SO IF I'M A SKRULL--
--WHY DON'T YOU KILL ME?
IN DUE TIME.

EXPLAIN IT TO ME.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE PLAN. THE PURPOSE OF SKRULL AGENTS POSING AS HUMANS.
YOUR PEOPLE HAVE TRIED IT BEFORE, AND FAILED. WHY TRY AGAIN NOW?
YOU TELL ME. YOU WERE A BIG PART OF THE PLAN, AFTER ALL.
YOU ARE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.
AND YOU ARE NOT CAPTAIN MARVEL.
TO BE CONTINUED...

WHO SCANNED IT?

WHO CARES?

No one gives a crap who the scanner is except the scanner so stop worrying and just scan!

FRIENDLY SCANS EVERYBODY!

FEEL FREE TO USE THIS TAG IN YOUR OWN EGO FREE SCANS

Like it? - Buy it!

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